



A BUMPER box of chocolates and congratulations from the Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring, for 12-years-old Gillian Fisher, the youngest entrant in the Achievement of the Year Award. The chocolates were a special prize for Gillian to share with her friends at the Society's Meldreth Manor School for severely handicapped children. She also received premium bonds.

Pictured with Gillian is her sister Carole, of Hillingdon, Middlesex, who nominated Gil-

lian for the Award, and told the judges: "She is the happiest person I have ever known."

Gillian can only use one hand, is unable to walk, or talk properly, but she likes to help with household chores at home and with looking after her baby brother. Said Carole in her citation for Gillian: "She is a Girl Guide, and though she cannot talk properly, she managed to say her Girl Guide's promise to be enrolled. She did this without assistance and everybody was very proud of her..."

First Award winner

RICHARD BOYDELL, aged 39, a chair-bound spastic who has triumphed over incredible difficulties to use his mathematical genius as an expert computer programmer, has won The Spastics Society's first Achievement of the Year Award.

The Award, which will now become an annual event, was for "the most outstanding effort and the most meritorious achievement in any field in 1972 by a spastic in Britain."

Nine semi-finalists went to the Society's London headquarters last week for the judging, and after the most difficult task that ever faced a judging panel in view of the nominations of courage and determination presented to them, it was announced that Dick Boydell was the winner. He received a £250 cash prize and a silver trophy.

Pictures on this page show the four main winners, and Pages 2 and 3 of Spastics News tell more of the stories of their achievement.

TRIO OF COURAGE



1st Richard Boydell receives his Achievement of the Year Award trophy from diplomat Sir Geoffrey Jackson, who told him: "We are proud of you." His mother, Mrs. Dorothy Boydell, whose faith in her son's ability led to this moment, is on the left. Their story is told below.

Their fight for a life worth living

by the Editor

BEHIND the towering achievement of Dick Boydell lies a story of extraordinary determination which is truly one of the most remarkable ever told in Spastics News.

It is the story of a woman who against all the odds refused to believe that her son was so helplessly crippled that nothing could be done for him. Refused to believe that he could not be educated. Refused to believe that he was doomed to a life of frustration, without communication, intellectual stimulation, or the possibility of earning a living.

The woman is Dick's mother, Mrs. Dorothy Boydell who, with her husband Jack, gave Dick the chance of a life worth living.

In their home at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, within easy travelling distance of Dick at The Spastics Society's Oakwood Further Education Centre at Kelvedon,

Cont. on Page 2



2nd Ann Gleeson is pictured with one of the Award judges, the Earl of Dalkeith, who is himself wheelchair bound following an accident. Ann was presented with the Wedgwood busts and premium bonds. Her remarkable story is told on Page 2.



3rd Christine Scales receives her prize from Henry Cooper, a member of the judging panel, and with it recognition of the determined way she has struggled, despite her handicaps, to live a useful, independent life. Her story is on Page 3.

Blind — but she helps spastics

THE picture on the right shows a collector for the Spastics Pool on her rounds collecting the weekly donations which bring so much help and hope to spastic men, women and children. And what is so very remarkable about this picture is that the lady, Miss Margaret Bell, of Edinburgh, has been registered as blind since 1952, and Candy is not simply a pet, but her essential guide dog.

In spite of her own handicap, Miss Bell is very mindful of the needs of others, and has a special place in her heart for spastics since a relative gave birth to a spastic child. Other blind people in Edinburgh share her concern, too, and Miss Bell still regularly collects from blind Pool members at the Scottish Braille Press, where she was employed as a Braille writer until ill health forced her to give up.

MORE ABOUT MISS BELL AND OTHER SPASTICS POOL COLLECTORS OF EDINBURGH IN A SPECIAL PICTURE FEATURE ON PAGES 6 AND 7.



Their fight for a life worth living

Cont. from Page 1

Mr. and Mrs. Boydell told me an incredible story which can only be an inspiration to other parents of handicapped children. They obviously did not think their work had been in any way remarkable; their words of pride were only for their son.

When Dick was born he was, as Dorothy graphically remembers it, "at death's door with jaundice and he wasn't out of my arms for the first 10 months."

He survived, but less determined parents might have wondered for what? Here was a spastic child so severely handicapped that he was effectively helpless. Jack and Dorothy took him to specialists, and were told that NOTHING could be done. Little was known then about the condition; there was no Spastics Society to give professional advice and support, and prove that by patient treatment and training from the beginning no spastic is too handicapped not to benefit to some degree.

Give up?

Who could have blamed Dorothy and Jack if they had decided to give up their unequal struggle, and let Dick be permanently cared for in hospital?

Not the Boydells. "I was never tempted to give up," Dorothy told me. "I knew that there was nothing in life for Dick if he didn't use his mind. It was the only thing for him. And it was up to us."

Such was their certainty that they put aside forever their dream of having a family of five children. "We realised," said Dorothy, "that if we were to do all we planned for Dick, it would occupy all our time, and it would not be fair to have more babies."

Exercises

First they tackled Dick's physical condition. Dick had no controllable movement, except in one leg, but the Boydells did by instinct what today's experts recommend for spastic children. They put him through a full programme of exercises every day—and kept it up for 17 years.

There was no dramatic improvement. Dick didn't learn to use his arms and hands, or feed himself, or walk, or do any of the things taken for granted by the able-bodied, but today he can sit in a chair himself, and does not need to be strapped in, which might be necessary with most spastics so dreadfully disabled. Dorothy admits that she always hoped against hope that she might be able to get Dick walking, "but it wasn't to be."

Then, when Dick was four, it was time for his education to begin. No hope of a proper school or a trained teacher in those days, so Dorothy had to be the teacher, and the 'school' was set up at home. It was a very serious affair. There were regular hours for lessons;

there was a blackboard, there were text books, even a regular 'milk break' as all the time, Dorothy strived to treat Dick "like any other child—like a normal human being."

Dorothy determined to teach Dick to read. "I had no experience, and I was no scholar, but I took advice about reading methods, and I bought a teaching manual."

Dick, remember, could not speak, and he could not use his hands to write, so how did Dorothy know if she was succeeding?

Reading

"I felt he was taking it in because he wouldn't have been so interested," she said. "And sometimes I used to make little mistakes when we were reading a book together, and I was sure he picked them up."

"We had reading every day, and then there was history, geography, general knowledge and mental arithmetic. I set up a shop and he would choose things, add up the money, and then push the right coins to me with his foot. Oh, yes, there was no doubt in our minds that Dick was intelligent."

He advanced at such a pace, in fact, that when he was six they chivvied an education officer to see the boy and look at the advanced books he was devouring. They begged that Dick should be allowed an education. Admittedly, Dick's speech problems were so severe that there were extreme difficulties in proving their case, but the education officer, convinced that the boy was without intelligence, would not even try to understand, so the Boydells' dream of a formal schooling for Dick was shattered.

Dorothy pleaded with schools to take him, offering to work in the schools herself in any way they wished, but all the time the answer was the same. A flat refusal to believe that locked in Dick's disabled body was a bright, inquiring mind.

His friends

But if he couldn't go to school, Dorothy was determined that Dick should have friends of his own age. She kept "open house" for the local children, set up a super playroom, and because this was the time of sweet rationing, admits she used "bribery and corruption" with sweets so that Dick had companionship.

"Yes, it was tiring work, and I usually had a 25-hour day," says Dorothy, "but Dick would never give up, so why should I?"

Jack taught Dick mathematics and geometry, but as the years went on Dick increasingly studied on his own. All he needed were the books, and when he was 13 he managed to make his father understand that he wanted a tome entitled "The Analytical Geometry of Conic Sections."

"I think we realised then that Dick had left us standing!" they recall.

Remember, though, that Dick's speech was so bad that while his parents could understand some of his words with great difficulty, the fact that he could not write meant that he had never fully communicated with them.

The miracle of his parents' determination and faith gave Dick the gift of learning, now an electronic miracle gave him the gift of two-way communication. Jack Boydell heard about the remarkable work of the



Ann Gleeson and Dick Boydell with the Achievement Award trophy

Possum equipment which allows the most heavily handicapped to type, open doors, switch on radio, TV and lights, and control their own environment in a way never before possible.

Spastics without the use of their hands were learning to type by using their mouths—sucking and blowing to work the delicate controls. Would it be possible, Jack wondered, for a machine to be adapted to foot control? The Possum scientists were enthusiastic, and Dick became the first spastic to use the machine other than by mouth control.

He was taught to use the Possum, and though one gets used to the extraordinary when hearing about Dick, it is almost unbelievable that his first effort on the machine was a 250-word letter in perfect English and spelling. Dick was then 30 years old, but this was the first time his parents had ever known with certainty that their patience, their hard work and their dedication had been so completely worthwhile.

"I will never forget that moment," says Dorothy simply. The Possum meant a new life for Dick. It enabled him to go to Oakwood. It allowed him to become an amateur radio expert with contacts all over the world. (When you "speak" to your friends in Morse code you don't need to talk). It allowed him to become a computer programmer for the Ford Motor Company, which has been "continually amazed at the soundness of his logical constructions." He has been to exhibitions at home and abroad to demonstrate his Possum equipment, and he has become an inspiration to handicapped people everywhere for the way he has overcome difficulties which everyone but he and his parents thought were impossible.

The ultimate academic accolade came when, at the age of 38, Dick was elected a member of the British Computer Society, the highest honour in his field, and a rare distinction.

Words are inadequate to convey what all this has meant to Dorothy, who never wavered in her determination that life must be made worth living for her son, but who says of him: "It is his achievement. He has always had an incredible courage, determination, and a love of life."

"Dick is outstanding. I can only say that I am very, very proud of him."

Praise for Ann's courage, goodwill and enthusiasm

SECOND prizewinner Ann Gleeson, of Baldwin Lane, Clayton, Bradford, is severely handicapped with only partial use of her hands and legs and with limited hearing. She recently graduated from the University of Keele with good second class honours in English and History, and is now taking a year's course at Leeds University to qualify her for a career in teaching. She hopes eventually to specialise in teaching deaf children.

Her interests include classical music, mediaeval literature and history, embroidery, cooking, and the piano. She has also undertaken Greek studies and geology, and taught herself touch typing, can lip read, and finds her invalid car invaluable for getting around the country.

Ann was nominated for the Award by the Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, and her English and History Professors. They said in their citation:

No allowances

"Though she used a tape-recorder to record lectures (taking notes each evening from the tapes she had used during the day), no special allowances were made for her, and the marks and classes awarded to her treated her work as if it were that of a student without disabilities. She was obliged to follow dialogue in tutorials partly by lip-reading, but nevertheless made a full contribution to discussion. Though she could only write slowly, her examinations were written without an allowance of extra time (though this would have been willingly granted)."

"Her tutors throughout her time at Keele remarked constantly not only on her courage and determination, but on her enthusiasm and readiness to make light of her disabilities and to play a really full part in the life of the departments."

"Over and again tutors who were apprehensive to start with found that they quickly lost all sense of her needing any special attention and saw her as a simply good, conscientious very hard-working student. That in itself would have been a remarkable tribute to her persistence and courage; her degree result was earned as perhaps few degrees have

been; it seems to us an outstanding achievement, won against the background of an additional grievous loss in the sudden death of her father during her final year."

"She took a notable part in the life of the Keele community, and her constant goodwill has been a salutary reminder to others of things they tend to take for granted."



Pool member gave the cash for Award prize

AN ESSEX woman is one of 10 people to win £1,000 each in a nationwide free competition run for the Spastic League Club by Top Ten Promotions of Bristol. All she had to do was to guess the attendance at a number of First Division football matches during a recent week.

As well as her £1,000 windfall, Mrs. Linda Stoton, who lives at Rainham, also won an extra £500 to be donated to a charity of her choice. She decided to allocate £250 to provide the first prize in The Spastics Society's Special Achievement Award, and the remaining £250 to a children's charity.

Reception

The £250 prize went, as reported on the front page, to Dick Boydell. The money was presented to him at a reception at Society headquarters, and unfortunately Mrs. Stoton was unable to be present as she was moving house that day.

The money was presented to the Society's secretary, Mr. R. C. E. Cumpfen, and Colonel John Bolton, UK secretary of Save The Children Fund, at the Society's headquarters. The hand-over was made on Mrs. Stoton's behalf by Spastic League Club Dartford area supervisor, Mr. A. G. Poole, who is pictured (left) with Mr. Cumpfen.

Third prize

Christine's happy life on a tight budget

THIRD prizewinner Christine Scales, aged 25, of Solon Road, Acre Lane, London, SW2, was nominated by Miss S. Hewetson, one of The Spastics Society's social workers.

In her nomination, Miss Hewetson said that Christine had a spastic condition which effectively slows down all her movements, and her left hand can only be used as a steadier. She wrote:

"I have known Christine since November 1970, when she asked the Society to help her leave home and make a life of her own. She has achieved this as a result of great determination and good management of her limited income.

'Grave doubts'

"When I first met Christine her net income was £9.50 a week, as a factory packer. Although she could comfortably live on this income at home, I expressed grave doubts about her being able to manage on this amount in a flat or bed-sitter. However, she was determined to try and, knowing from our past records on her that she was very level-headed, I resolved to give her as much support as possible. Of necessity, she could not receive much support from her family as her father works abroad and her mother died many years back, and she was living with her younger brother and sister.

"After some very intensive searching in which we looked at private bed-sitters, put an advertisement in the local press and wrote to her Vicar, we finally obtained an unfurnished flat through a local housing association. Her rent started at £4.50 a week, plus 80p rates. Before Christine took the flat on, I once again warned her of the difficulties she was likely to encounter, and said quite frankly in her position I would not take the flat on. However, she was determined to go ahead.

Her own home

"She moved into the flat on 18th May, 1971, and is still there. I cannot speak highly enough of the way she had budgeted and managed to run and equip this flat. With her small amount of savings she acquired some second-hand furniture. The Society made a grant of £32.54 initially to pay for the laying down of lino in the living room, kitchen and corridor. The total cost of this was £37.54, and Christine met the difference of £5. In November, 1971, the Society also paid for her television licence as she managed to rent a very cheap television, which was a great source of company to her. Apart from these two occasions, she managed entirely on her earnings.

"By May 1972, however, her situation was extremely worrying. She had never failed to pay her rent or any bill such as electricity or gas. It was clear, however, that at times she did not have enough money to buy food. Up to this point I had hesitated to ask the Society for a grant to help, purely with living expenses, as I felt that Christine ought to make every attempt to manage on her own financially. I felt

Achievement Award runners-up

... and Stirling Moss presents the prizes



If Elizabeth has the will, she finds a way

ELIZABETH Greeley, aged 26, of Blandford Street, London, W.1, was nominated not only for the life she has achieved for herself, but also for the many things she has done for other people. All this in spite of severe disabilities, including a speech defect, and hands so badly affected that she is unable to write.

"Anyone meeting Elizabeth for the first time would think it quite impossible that she could consider living alone as even the smallest tasks would be hazardous to her. Not so Elizabeth and not so her friends at The Spastics Society," says the citation.

Elizabeth goes to work, is studying for higher academic qualifications, and is the driving force in the development of a youth club which now has 150 members. "Some of the things she has organised for the club have included taking 30 children to the coast for 15 hours, various journeys to museums, visits to the Tower and on the river, apart from frequent country rambles and field projects. Indoors, she has the children involved in music and drama, languages, and many other activities of their choosing."

The citation also records that Elizabeth's determined search for independence has led her from the comfortable conditions in a residential home for the disabled to a student hostel, where she has to do everything for herself. Only one allowance is made for her—her tea is poured out and carried for her at breakfast time, but like the other students she has to wash up, tidy the table, clean her room and care for her clothes.

"She has many friends, a very full life, and in one year has shown that she can work in open employment, run a youth club and gain independence.

"Elizabeth very rarely allows her own disabilities to prevent her undertaking anything she has set her heart on. If she has the will, there is the way."



Stephen's mother is so proud

STEPHEN BURTON, aged 24, of Doverhouse Road, Putney, S.W.15, was nominated for the Award by his mother. In her nomination, she said:

"In June 1972, he passed his Bar Finals and attended the Calling To The Bar ceremony complete with full regalia of a Barrister. He is totally handicapped apart from speech, but with great courage and determination.

"A pupil of Thomas Delarue School and recently a student at Oakwood, he studied from a correspondence course and lectures in the evening at the University. He now hopes to commence a pupillage at one of the Inns of Court.

"Throughout his studies he has left no stone unturned, i.e. arranging a grant from our local Council, making appointments with people who can help him professionally. Although the honours are his, without the great facilities provided by the Delarue School and Oakwood and help of the principals and staff, this great achievement would not have been possible.

"I hope my letter will give encouragement to other spastics and show them what can be done if you don't give up in despair."

that she had proved that she could do this, and the Society, therefore, gave her a further grant of £30 for her to use as a float in times of stress.

"This gave her a great deal of confidence, and I know that she has not touched this sum. The worst seems to be over now, in any case, as she obtained a rise at work which brings her income up to £13 a week net. Her rent and rates have not gone up accordingly, and at present stand at £5.34. Christine manages quite comfortably on this amount."



Terence became an electronics expert

TERENCE Cooper, aged 24, lives at the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre, Scunthorpe, and was nominated for the Award by Mr. D. Hazelton, the warden.

The citation told of Terence's severe handicaps, that he was unable to walk, has very poor hand control and poor speech, but "this boy, with help from various sources, has taught himself electronics."

Despite his handicaps he is a corporate member of the Radio Society of Great Britain and was recently awarded the Radio Amateurs Certificate by the City and Guilds of London Institute. He also holds the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Terence types all his notes on an electric typewriter, using his nose as a striker.

He has his own receiver which he assembled himself, and he has built his own recording machine from bits and pieces. He has built a discotheque for use in the Centre, and has his own television which he assembled from old sets.

The citation concluded: "Considering this boy's terrible handicaps, I feel his achievement in the electronics field shows outstanding courage and determination."

'Helpless' Brenda now earns her own living

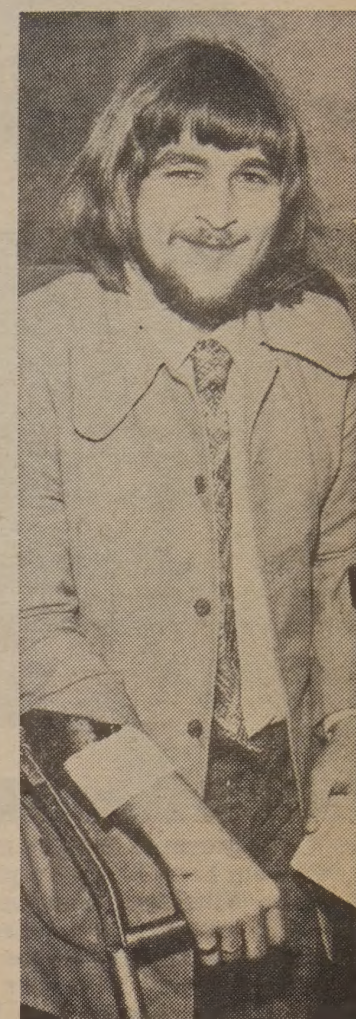
BRENDA Sallabanks, aged 21, of Ashbeach Road, Ramsey St. Mary's Hunts., was nominated by the Peterborough and District Spastics Society. The citation read:

"Brenda, now a mature 21-year-old, was born a spastic, completely helpless, unable to feed herself, to walk or to use her hands and arms, and wholly dependent on others. At the age of six she went to the Wilfred Pickles School at Tixover, and whilst there learned to ride a tricycle and to type with her feet.

"She also joined the Girl Guides during her time at Tixover, and passed all the tests in principle that all girls in the Guide movement are expected to do. Her greatest achievement was winning the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

"She now lives in and works at Drummonds Residential Centre at Feering, near Colchester, where she earns a living weaving stool seats, making rugs with wool and canvas and painting, and all this is done with her feet. She recently won the Girl Guide First Class badge.

"Two years ago Brenda visited Holland, and this year she went off to Denmark, so she is fairly widely travelled, something we do not usually associate with one who is so badly handicapped and confined to a wheelchair.



Now Peter stands on his own feet

PETER CREED, aged 21, of Mount Pleasant, Stoford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, was nominated by his father who said that because of his Army career, which meant constantly moving, Peter's treatment and schooling suffered.

In 1967, though he was "always terrified of even seeing a doctor and the mention of a surgeon horrified him," he had a long spell in hospital for operations on both feet. Though both legs were in plaster for four months during the hot summer there was never a word of complaint. Peter then started to make rapid progress in using his arm sticks.

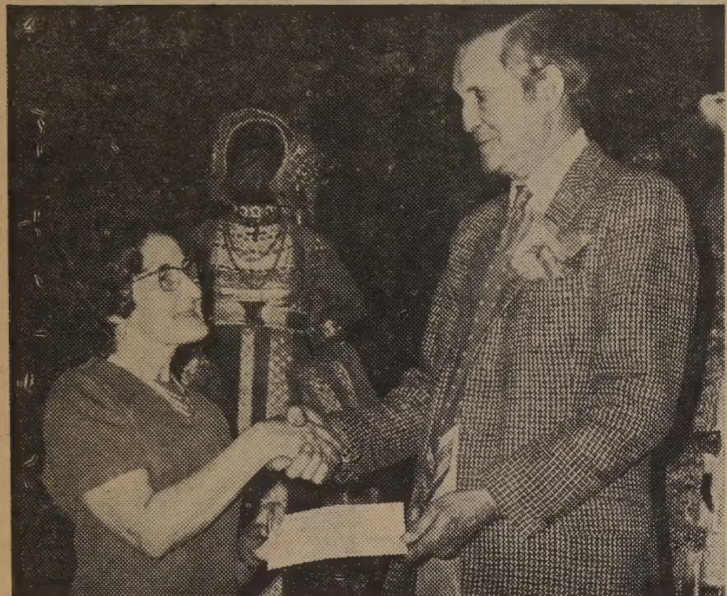
After being sent from one college as "untrainable," Peter went to the Society's Sherards Training Centre, did very well, but afterwards was unable to get a job for six months. Two years ago, he found a job at £7 a week, has worked extremely hard, and today his take-home pay is about £15 a week.

Said Peter's father proudly: "Such is his determination and despite his severe handicap, he always tried to lead a normal life. Financially he is now completely independent and is very proud of this fact."

The citation also recorded that people always told Peter that spastics can't whistle. He tried for hours on end and finally proved them wrong!

THE Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group are offering for sale their ambulance. This vehicle will seat nine people, plus two seated in wheelchairs, and has a hydraulic tail-lift. It has been regularly serviced and is in good working order. The price required is £500 o.n.o. Will any interested Group please contact the above Group at 216 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, tel. Blackpool 61444.

Splashes from the Spastics Pool



Mrs. C. N. Brown of Bath, Somerset, receives a cheque for £1,000 from Lord Bath at a presentation held at Longleat House in Wiltshire. The lucky member was one of ten first prize winners in a recent competition for Spastics Pool supporters. In addition to her own £1,000 cheque, her prize included a further £500 to be donated to the charity of her choice, the Bath Institute for Medical Engineering.



Don't forget the keys, is the message for Mrs. F. Sheffield, of Eye, Peterborough, as she receives her Vauxhall Viva from Joe Pearlson, Chairman of Peterborough and District Spastics Society. The car was first prize in a competition for Spastics Pool supporters.

FOLLOWING the successful convention at Pontin's Blackpool in May last year, two further conventions — each lasting for a week — have been planned for this May. Top Ten Promotions has acquired Pontin's Holiday Centres at Broadreeds near Chichester in Sussex (May 5th-12th) and Blackpool (May 12th-19th). The purpose of these gatherings is to bring together as many Spastics Pool collectors and their families as possible.

A team from Top Ten Promotions will be on hand to answer questions, exchange points of view, and to present a programme on the Thursday



From the Sun newspaper:

Dedicated

NO MATTER what the wind or weather, the dedicated collector for Spastics never fails to come. I take my hat off to him.

J. Tolley.
Cirencester, Glos.

evening of each week, which will outline the achievements of the Spastics Pool and the hopes and intentions for the future. The programme will include film and slides. Representatives of The Spastics Society will also be in attendance with films and displays to illustrate the Society's achievements since it was established 21 years ago.

Visits to centres for spastics will be arranged, and coaches provided free of charge. The full Pontin's entertainment programme will be available to all who attend.

Anyone requiring further details should drop a line to Miss Diane Hawkins, Top Ten Travel Limited, P.O. Box 67, Quay Street, Bristol, BS99 71J.

Fixed your hols. yet?

David Beebe, a spastic, and '62 Club member, of 11 Nelson House, Hopton Street, London, SE1 9JS,

would like to hear from anyone interested in a nine day cruise commencing on the 7th September, 1973. Cost £81, and at the time of publication there were only a few vacancies. If you haven't time to write, why not telephone him on 01-928 2011.

Above: Smiles all round when John Tomlinson, of Birkenhead, received the keys, and congratulations, on winning a Vauxhall Viva car from Tranmere Rovers footballer Ian St. John

Below: "You must be joking," commented Mr. and Mrs. Ron Sheasby of Brislington, Bristol, when they received their prize of a Vauxhall car from T.V. and radio personality Don Moss. For the purpose of the presentation they had to be content with a mini version, but they were assured that the real thing was waiting for them outside.



How to bridge the communication gap

THE idea that one must have full use of all one's limbs in order to enjoy dancing is an outmoded convention, according to Gina Leveté. She teaches Movement and Mime to physically handicapped children and feels that even the most severely incapacitated can benefit from this form of self-expression.

Fully trained and qualified as a dancer herself, Mrs. Leveté gave up a career in ballet when she started her family. Later, when the children were older, she began to teach dancing, at first to able-bodied children, together with a few who were emotionally disturbed. Then she worked at a privately-run special school which catered for all types of physical handicaps.

The pupils soon began to respond with a greater freedom and range of movement, and the work

was such a success that a physiotherapist friend suggested giving similar lessons to children in hospital. Sponsored by the Lady Hoare Trust, Mrs. Leveté then set up an experiment in teaching Movement and Mime to children at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. After four years her lessons have now become an established part of the hospital's rehabilitation programme and are used to help in the assessment of new patients.

She also holds classes at the Westminster Hospital and the newly-built Charing Cross Hospital at Fulham. At these three centres she sees children with just about every kind of disability, including a large number of spastics. Many of the children at Queen Mary's are thalidomide cases who visit the hospital at regular intervals for the fitting of artificial limbs.

Every child is encouraged to use his full movement potential. Even those without limbs do not just sway in time to the music, but are taught to

without words

convey ideas by the dramatic use of facial expression, torso movements and gestures of the head.

This concept of movement differs considerably from "Wheelchair Dancing," in that there is no set choreography. Mrs. Leveté's teaching is pure self-expression.

Apart from being great fun, the classes encourage motor co-ordination and help the more reserved children to mix with their contemporaries. They also enable a pupil to enact, through dramatic improvisation, situations in which he would like to participate, but from which he is barred in real life because of his handicap.

Mrs. Leveté says that she does not adapt her teaching to individual handicaps. Rather, each child is encouraged to adapt his handicap to her instructions. She will say, for instance, "Move your head in as many directions as you can think of," while beating out a strong musical rhythm. This helps muscular co-ordination.

Imagination and the idea of co-operating with others

is stimulated by a direction such as, "Three people work together and invent a machine that moves slowly across the room." Even a child with very limited movement can be encouraged by an appeal to his imagination, to propel himself across the floor in some way.

In recognition of her work for the community, Mrs. Leveté was recently awarded a Fellowship by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. This fund was set up with money given in memory of the late Sir Winston, to enable people who might not otherwise have an opportunity to travel, to experience life in another country.

Normally, the Churchill Fellows go abroad as observers rather than students, but Mrs. Leveté was allowed to spend two months in Paris pursuing a course of study in mime technique. She studied mime with some of the leading French experts in the field and gathered many useful ideas.

She says she was interested to find that psychiatry students at the Sorbonne study mime as

part of their training, and feels that this idea could usefully be adopted here. She would also like to see dance and mime become an integral part of physiotherapists' training, and has already lectured on the subject to physiotherapy students at the Middlesex Hospital.

Mrs. Leveté would very much like to extend her teaching to physically handicapped adults, but with the usual chronic shortage of money in hospitals nobody seems willing to sponsor the scheme. This seems a pity, because the

concept of mime holds exciting possibilities for the severely physically handicapped. If they are to make any kind of life worth living for themselves, it is vitally important to be able to communicate satisfactorily with other people. In everyday conversation, gesture and facial expression play a part almost equal to the spoken word. A proper knowledge of mime techniques could go a long way towards helping to bridge the communication gap.

Anne Plummer

THEY ARE READING OUR BOOKS IN CHINA

WHEELCHAIR dancing is likely to become all the rage in the Republic of China if an order just received in The Spastic Society's bookshop is anything to go by.

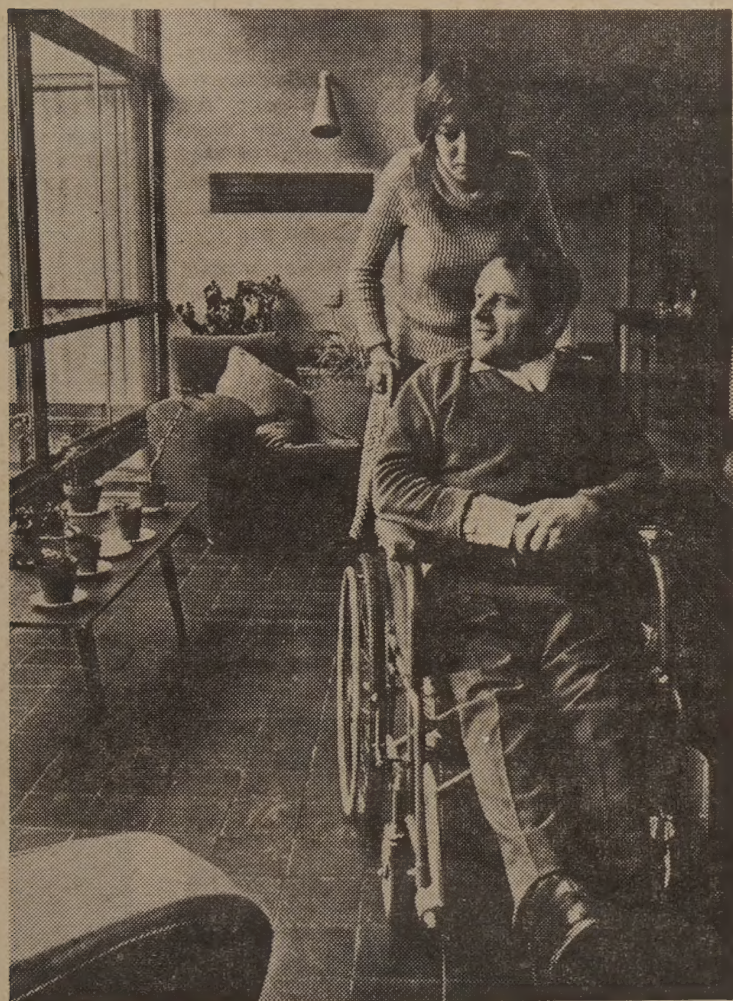
A spastic centre in Taipei, Taiwan (the old Formosa), has ordered six books including a Parents' Handbook and a publication on wheelchair dancing.

The Society's Librarian thinks that this is the first order ever to be received from Taiwan. She was intrigued to find that it arrived in Park Crescent less than a month after the publication of the latest book list, although she had not sent a copy of the list to Taiwan.



Everyone can enjoy a seaside holiday

The pictures show life at
the holiday 'home from home'



Focus on The Spastics Society's Arundel Hotel



DURING the drab winter months, most of us lighten our horizons by studying the holiday brochures with their promise of sunshine, a complete change of scene and that wonderful away-from-it-all feeling.

For the handicapped, it is never just a matter of spontaneously choosing a place with romantic appeal—and booking yourself on a package deal.

There are so many problems to overcome before you can get that holiday feeling... how will you get there in your wheelchair, who will go with you and look after you when you are there, will the hotel management or guests object to you and humiliate you... in the end, however courageous you are, perhaps planning a holiday just isn't worth-while.

That is where The Spastics Society's Arundel Hotel, at Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex provides a wonderful solution.

Hard by good old South-

end with its cockle and whelk stalls, its bracing air and all the fun of the longest pier in the world, it offers a simple, inexpensive answer to all the daunting problems. What's more, if you are badly handicapped you don't have to face up to the prospect of strangers looking after you, because the hotel accepts able-bodied escorts to accompany you—and you can bring your family with you, too. Because of this arrangement, there is no 'nursing home' feeling about the Arundel.

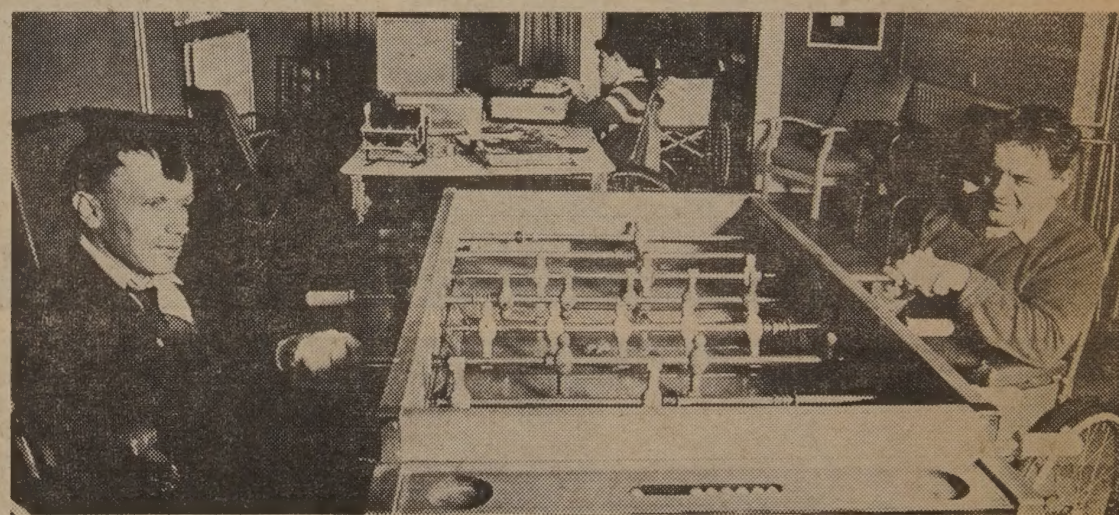
There are eight bedrooms, each equipped with wash-basins, which accommodate from one to four guests. A comfortable lounge contains colour television, a radio, a piano and a record player. There is also a pleasant loggia. For those who dread the thought of wet days, there is a games room with table tennis and a billiards table. The hotel has a mini-bus

fitted with a wheelchair ramp. This is used for organising expeditions to the shops and for various outings in the area.

The Arundel is open all the year round and the staff are friendly, efficient, and anxious that every guest has the holiday of their choice. If you are the quiet, retiring type, you won't be badgered. On the other hand, if you want to paint the town red, they'll do their best to help you!

The price is right too—just £10.70 a week for spastic guests of 15 years and over, and £5.62 for handicapped and able-bodied children from 3 to 15 years of age. Babies from three months to three years cost £1.70 a week. Non-handicapped adults pay a little more—£13.50 a week.

Enquiries to the Manageress, Mrs. C. Fulton, Arundel Private Hotel, 23, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.



Spastics News meets the keen collectors of Edinburgh

THERE are 1,535 collectors for the Spastics Pool in Scotland, serving 127,637 members and if they are as enthusiastic and as determined to help spastics as the men and women Spastics News met in Edinburgh, then it is a pity that we can't photograph them all. They love the work in spite of two special problems.

The first is the fact that many big firms are moving out of Edinburgh into development areas of Scotland, and this means that hundreds of members can suddenly be lost. The other big problem is the big competition from the pools run by Celtic and Rangers, and anyone who knows Scotland knows that the fan worship of the two football teams amounts almost to a religion north of the Border.

Mr. Alexander Dick, one of the Edinburgh supervisors for Top Ten Promotions Ltd., told Spastics News that he had lost 10 collectors in a year because big firms had moved away. However, he and his wife Jessie — she is a collector — seemed to enjoy the challenge, and like all the Top Ten people we met in Edinburgh obviously had a particular interest in the needs of spastics. One reason for this may be that the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics has its headquarters, and some of its establishments educating, training and employing spastics in Edinburgh, and they are in

close contact with them. Mrs. Dick, in fact, collectors from staff and spastics in Edinburgh.

Supervisors, collectors and members then, can see what is happening to the money donated to the Pool. As readers will know, the money donated to Top Ten Promotions Ltd., the Bristol based Charity Pools Organisation in weekly contributions from members, provides The Spastics Society with more than half its income. The Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics operates North of the Border, and in case any nationalistic Scots are reading this, it is important to point out that the bulk of the money collected in Scotland is used for the benefit of Scottish spastics. Only a small proportion of it is used on

national expenditure to benefit all spastics — medical research, for instance.

Though they are a long way from Bristol, the Scottish collectors are kept in close touch with headquarters. There is for instance to be a collector's meeting in Edinburgh early in April when they will meet a team from Top Ten — and most important, meet each other to discuss their work.

As well as the knowledge that they are helping the handicapped, which is satisfying in itself, the collectors we met in Edinburgh echo the words of collectors we have met in other parts of the country. Their comments when asked why they like the job might be summarised as:

"You meet a lot of people, and it's a wonderful way of making friends because you are soon one of the family. You get out and about, and you always have the fun of wondering if one of your members will come up with a big prize. And when that happens it's a thrill for everyone".

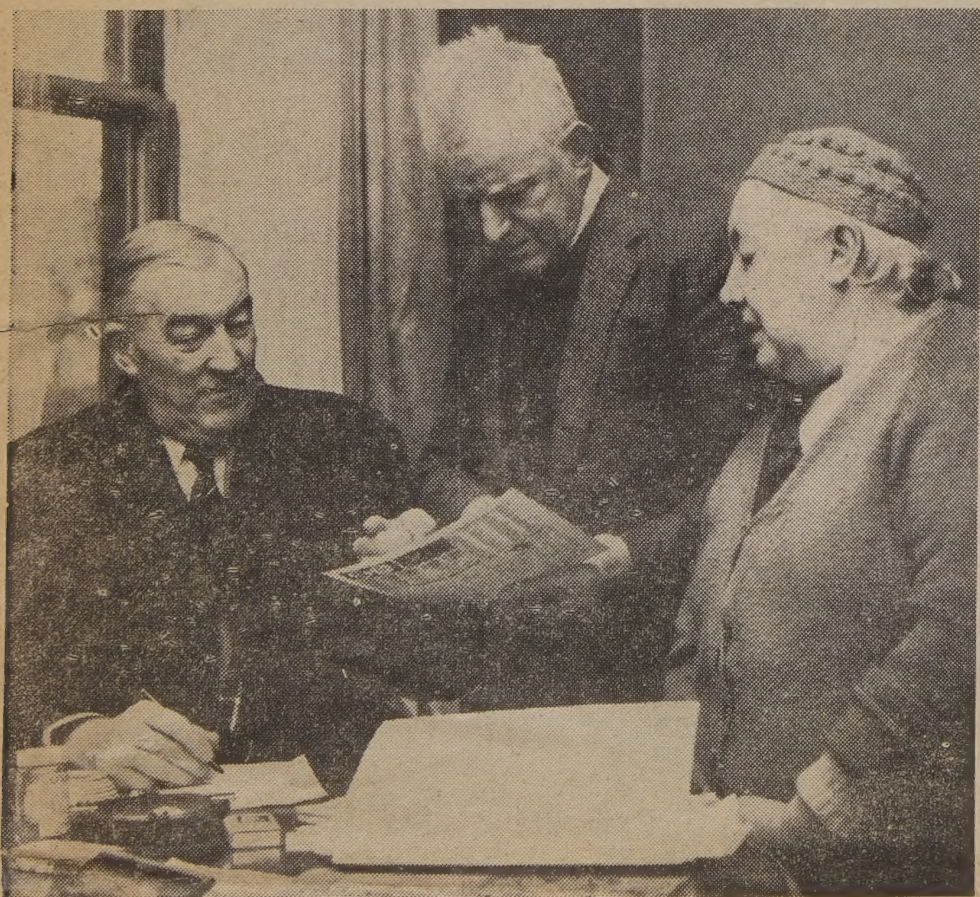
Picture below shows a regular weekly meeting in the street between Mr. Dick and collectors Mr. Farquhar and Mr. Sam Donaldson. Both have been collectors for many years; both cover their Pool "beat" on foot, and Mr. Dick meets them at the same time each Friday for their returns.



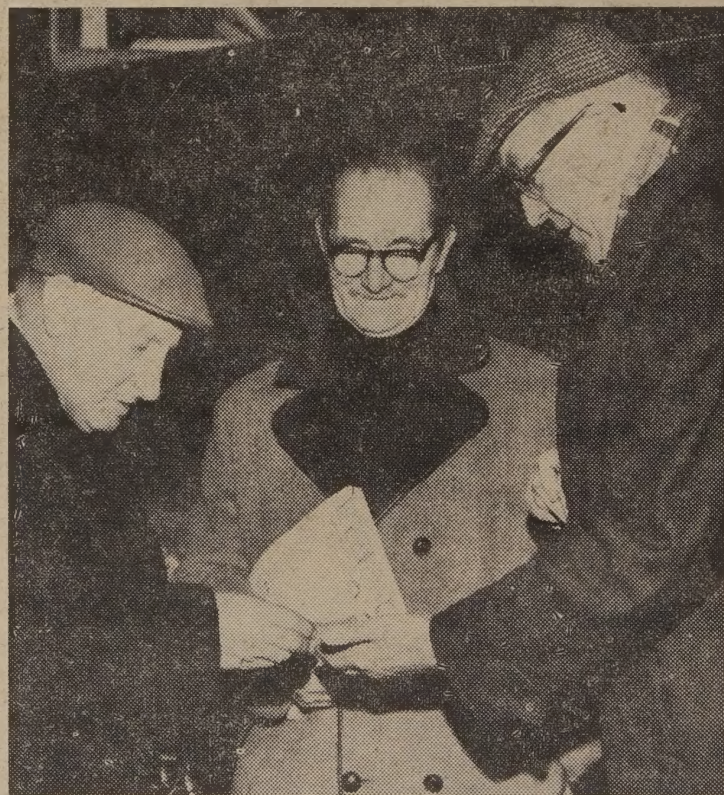
Miss Margaret Bell and her guide dog, Candy—there is another picture of them on Page 1—is pictured with her friends and fellow collectors, Margaret and Frank Hamilton. Frank is a bus driver, and his colleagues at Edinburgh City Transport's Marine Garage, Portobello, are enthusiastic members of the Pool.



ABOVE: Collectors rapidly become friends of the family. In the group above, collector Mr. James Hogg and his wife, who helps him, are pictured with members Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Morton (on the right) and their children, Laura 8, and Paul 6.



LEFT: Supervisor Mr. Dick with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moore at their home in Antigua Street, Edinburgh. Mr. Moore, who is in his 80's, was the first supervisor in Edinburgh, and Mr. Dick took over from him when he retired. Mrs. Moore is a devoted collector—with lots of expert help and advice from her husband. Picture right is a family affair. Collector Mr. Cameron Crawford presents a bulletin to member Mrs. Lynda Watson and her husband — Cameron's daughter and son-in-law.



Mrs. Ina Weir is a collector with a deep personal interest in the success of the Spastics Pool, as her son Jim is a spastic. Mr. Dick is pictured above with Mrs. Weir and Jim at their home in MacDonald Road, Edinburgh. Though he is confined to





Picture, left, shows Mr. Alexander Dick, one of the Edinburgh supervisors for the Spastics Pool against a typical Edinburgh background of the Castle towering over the traffic of Princes Street.

Picture, right: Mrs. Jessie Dick is, naturally enough, one of her husband's keenest collectors, and her members include staff at the offices of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics in Edinburgh. Since 1946, the Council has helped spastics of all ages and degrees of handicap, and brought hope and a change of life to many who would otherwise have been denied them. In the picture with Mrs. Dick as she collects donations and delivers the bulletins are, from left, Mrs. Isobella Leslie, Mrs. Helen Heren, and Mrs. Elizabeth Innes. Mrs. Dick collects each week from over 340 members.



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a wheelchair, Jim is very interested in sport, especially racing and football—and apparently likes a flutter on the horses!



The smiling workers in the two pictures above were photographed at St. Jude's Laundry, Edinburgh, which was set up by the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics to give sheltered employment for spastics. Other work opportunities are provided for spastics by the Council at the Hillington Work Centre and the Trinity Occupational Centre, Edinburgh.

Busy with the ironing machine in the picture above, left, are Jean Ritchie, Robert Hope, Iris Alexander and Anne Herriot. Dashing away with the smoothing iron in the more traditional way in the second picture are Elizabeth Crichton, Barbara Ganson, Catherine Irons, Lena Peat and Betty Lynch.

The picture centre, left, shows Mrs. Dick in action again as she delivers a bulletin to Mrs. Iris Eaton at the Scottish Council's headquarters.

The happy scene in the shop, pictured left, shows Tanya Bennett and her mother, collecting their bulletin from Mrs. Henderson in Mr. W. A. Brown's shop in Pilrig, Edinburgh. Mr. Brown is a collector and, judging from the enthusiastic way she is reaching out for the bulletin, little Tanya will be a keen member one of these days.



More good deeds in Edinburgh

Pupils of George Watson College, Edinburgh, has raised £250 to buy two Chairmobiles designed by Lord Snowdon. The chairs have been presented to the Westerlea School for Spastics, Ellersly Road, Edinburgh.

Photographed at the handing-over ceremony is (right) Mrs. A. Mathams. Headmistress of

Westerlea, accompanied by two of her pupils, Karen and Richard. Handing the cheque to Mrs. Matham is Ewan Stewart, watched by other Watson's College pupils.

In the foreground is one of the Snowdon Chairmobiles, while Karen sits in a conventional wheelchair.

(Photo by courtesy of Edinburgh Evening News)



The tough way to celebrate a birthday

A 23-YEAR-OLD Cardiff bank clerk, Keith Morgan, celebrated the 21st Anniversary of The Spastics Society on Friday, January 5th, by achieving a 160 mile sponsored cycle ride from London to Cardiff in twelve hours.

He expects to collect at least £300 from his sponsors to aid the Cardiff Adult House Unit for Spastics, Bryn Awel, Cyncoed Cardiff.

Keith is a scout leader and lives at 19, Celyn Grove, Cyncoed, Cardiff. He has been interested in helping spastics since he went to camp with handicapped boys.

Starting point for Keith's journey was the Baden - Powell House Scout Hostel, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. He was accompanied on his journey by a back-up team of parents and members of the 3rd Llanishen Scout Group who travelled beside him in a mini-bus.

His route through the night took him through Reading, Newbury, Marlborough, Chippenham (where he was joined by three fellow Scouts on bicycles), Chepstow and



Newport. He finished outside the Bryn-Awel Spastics Unit where he received many congratulations.

The ride was Keith's first attempt at long - distance cycling, and he put in a lot of training over several months. "I received lots of encouragement and stopped twice for a reviving cup of tea," he said. "I was very fortunate with the weather—no rain and a following wind for part of the way."

Sponsorship money has been offered by a number of Cardiff business houses, as well as by local Scouts and Keith's friends.

Keith is leaving Bryn Awel to decide how they will spend the money, but he hopes it might help towards a holiday for the residents.

Picture, above, shows Keith being welcomed by Mr. Trevor Davies, Manager of the Spastics Centre. Also in the picture are Scouts from Mr. Morgan's group who took it in turns to cycle with their leader.

Picture by courtesy of South Wales Echo

SOUTH West Surrey Spastics has received a cheque for £200 from Mrs. North, Manageress of the Guildford Spastics Shop. This money was collected by Mr. and Mrs. North over the Christmas period in addition to the normal profit from sales at the shop.

It will go towards the annual running costs of the White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey.

White Lodge has also received a donation of £150 from Chertsey Rotary Club. This is half the proceeds of a charity ball held by the club at the end of last year.

"Major problem" for Scotland on needs of adult spastics

MUCH higher priority for the needs of adult spastics and the provision of more long-term residential accommodation are called for in a major policy review which has just been published by the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

Quoting a working party report which has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Council, the review states: "Services for adult spastics pose a major problem . . . not only is provision for them expensive, but it is of a long-term nature and there is a cumulative effect numerically."

The value of work centres and occupational centres is stressed. Spastics' attendance provides a natural continuation of education and maturation after leaving school, opportunities for assessment can be developed, the severely disabled spastic can remain at home with his family, thus postponing the need for alternative residential care, and for those in residential care it helps to relieve pressure on house staff.

While the Council will continue to maintain one sheltered workshop—St. Jude's Laundry, Edinburgh—and work centres at Hillington, Glasgow, and Trinity, Edinburgh, catering for 80 and 54 people respectively, their future policy will be to encourage the development of local authority centres.

Where necessary, new centres would be opened and operated, but only as an agent of the local authority concerned;

in urgent cases the Council would be prepared to support the centres financially for a limited period, subject to the local authorities accepting full financial responsibility thereafter even if the Council continued to manage them.

Regarding the need for more residential accommodation, the working party reported that 18 adult spastics and 12 others between the ages of 12 and 16 required immediate residential provision, while a further 166 adults and 77 younger spastics would eventually require long-term residential care.

Demands for such care were cumulative and it was estimated that in addition to satisfying present needs, the Council would require to provide an extra 14-15 places annually to cater for the need.

Education

More facilities to enable spastic pupils to continue formal education after the age of 16 and an increasing number of pre-school units, are also called for in the review.

Mr. Archie McConnochie, Chairman of the Council's Executive Committee, said that the working party's recommendations, many of which were being implemented already, represented a blueprint of activities which the Council intended to pursue during the next few years.

"The incidence of cerebral palsy is pretty consistent, and it means that at least 200 spastic children are born in Scotland every year; that indicates a total Scottish spastic population of not fewer than 10,000 people. It may well be higher, but it is a measure of the problem we have to tackle.

"The particular problem of adult spastics is growing rap-

idly, partly because of their increasing life-expectancy. Their parents grow old and cannot cope, or die, and because facilities are inadequate, we get the appalling spectacle of spastics being relegated to mental hospitals and geriatric wards which, in many cases, are totally unsuitable places for them to be.

"More residential homes for severely handicapped spastics are certainly needed, but an enormous alleviation could be effected were local authorities—and private developers—to include in their new schemes a small proportion of specially designed houses for the less afflicted," he said.

The news

Almost 1,500 copies of the review are being sent to local authorities throughout Scotland for their health, education and social work departments, regional hospital boards, voluntary organisations and many others.

In addition to the two work centres and sheltered workshop, the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics operates three residential schools and a day centre for children, a hostel and a residential home for adults, as well as out-patients' clinics and social work and mobile therapy services.

Guide cup goes across the border

FOR the first time for 43 years a Scottish company of disabled Girl Guides have won the silver cup awarded annually in a national competition among companies of disabled girls for the best portable exhibition on Guides Promise and Law.

The winners are the 49th Edinburgh Company, a group of nine spastic girls between the ages of 11 and 16, who attend the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics Westerlea School, Ellersly Road.

Their entry of an imaginative collage brought the cup across the Border on the only occasion since a Glasgow company won it in 1929.

You must grasp opportunities says David

AN INCREDIBLE story of determination and courage lies behind the efforts of a 34-year-old Luton man who is working for his B.A. degree.

He is a spastic and, because he does not have full control of his hands, his studies are made many times more difficult.

Like many other disabled people, David North of Carteret Road, Vauxhall Park, took up a challenge offered by the Open University—and now he is well on the way to that coveted degree.

Difficulties

He has always been a fighter, despite his condition, which leaves him able to walk only with difficulty, and which has taken away most of the use of his hands.

"When I came to Luton I had a dead-end job," he said. "I was stapling duplicating books for a printing firm, and doing some sweeping up—that sort of thing.

"Then it got me down," he said. So David went for a training course in Birmingham, found he was too slow for the factory job they offered him—and ended up in his old job with the printing firm. "I could not get anything better, although I tried

hard enough," he said.

Then came the dramatic change in his life, brought about by an article he saw in the Luton News on the Open University.

"I applied for a place, and was delighted when I got a place," he said. "I went for a six-months preliminary course at the Puttbridge Bury College of Education, and then began the full university course."

He is now a full-time student reading books on economics and geography for many hours a week. "I get quite good marks on my continual assessment, but not on the exams," he said. "I can only type with two fingers on my right hand, and it takes me a long time to get the answers down."

He has been encouraged by his parents and the Open University staff to keep at his work.

He has been to summer schools in various parts of the country on a grant from Luton Council. But he said he had to pay his own course fees and buy books. "The books are about £10, and it costs £10 a course," he said. "I am doing four courses."

He said of his studies: "The work can be quite tough at times, but I enjoy it. I think it is better



than the monotonous work I was doing, and I am getting somewhere."

David wants spastics to get the help they need, but also believes the disabled

should speak out for themselves and grasp at opportunities.

Picture and article by courtesy of the Luton News.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE

TRAINING COURSES FOR HOUSEPARENTS/ CARE STAFF — 1973/74.

a) Residential Care of Handicapped Children

b) Care of Handicapped Adults.

Applications are invited for these two 15-month Residential Courses at Castle Priory College, Wallingford, commencing in September 1973. Candidates must have at least one year's full-time experience of work with children or adults, and the minimum age for consideration is 18.

Both courses include practical periods spent in special schools for handicapped children, care units for the mentally handicapped, and other residential situations, as well as sessions in College. The courses work in parallel and give all participants an awareness of the work encountered in a whole range of care establishments, whilst enabling them to develop particular skills for the two main fields of care.

Requests for application forms and other information, including financial arrangements, should be made forthwith to the Senior Tutor, Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Berks.



H.Q. staff celebrates the 21st birthday

January marked the 21st anniversary of The Spastics Society, and the staff at headquarters organised a party to celebrate the past achievements and wish future success to the charity they are so proud to work for. We thought you would like to see pictures of the people you may only know as names or voices if you contact H.Q.



Picture above shows Christine Moore, Supervisor of the Secretarial Bureau, and Pat Blake, Post Room clerk, and the picture left shows the happy "birthday party" atmosphere to celebrate 21 years of progress.



Above: Henry Gamper, Design, Print and Films Officer, with Wendy Greenwood, Holiday Organiser, and Philip Dyer, Deputy Head of Social Work and Employment.



Above: Secretary Pat Mudge, with Joan Pedlar, Schools and Centres Establishment Officer, John Kellett, Assistant Director, Appeals, and Penny Prior, Residential Services Officer.



Above: Eve Savage of the Sembal Trust, Sybil Gottlieb, secretary on "Special Education" magazine, and Miss L. B. Ray, clerk to the Supplies Officer. Below: Sheila Sheehy, and Annelize de Lange, of the Secretarial Bureau, are pictured with Ron Lamb, Head of Donations Administration.



Above: Bill Sutton, Internal Services, Fire and Transport Officer, with Mrs. C. A. Clifton, Principal Officer, liaison with local authorities, and Richard Gray, Head of Development. Below: The Society's Honorary Treasurer, Mr. D. B. E. Belson, is pictured with Valerie Mills, Residential Services Officer, and Anthony Frank, Assistant Director, Regions.



Everybody loves the handy thingamajig



This is the handy little thingamajig.

THIS is the thingamajig which disabled workers are making, and helping to simplify the job of the South Western Electricity Board's linesmen.

Of course, it is not really called a thingamajig. It is officially a "spring-loaded clip that can be carried in a linesman's pocket and slipped over the top of an insulator to retain the conductor in the insulator groove while it is run out and sagged." So now you know what a thingamajig is.

Anyway, it is very useful and an essential gadget for linesmen on overhead line construction work throughout the Board's area.

The thingamajigs are made at Somerset County Enterprises, of Northgate, Bridgwater, a small factory operated by Somerset County Council and sponsored by the Department of Labour. The factory employs 24 disabled workers, seven of them spastics, and there are plans for a new building which will house 50 disabled workers.

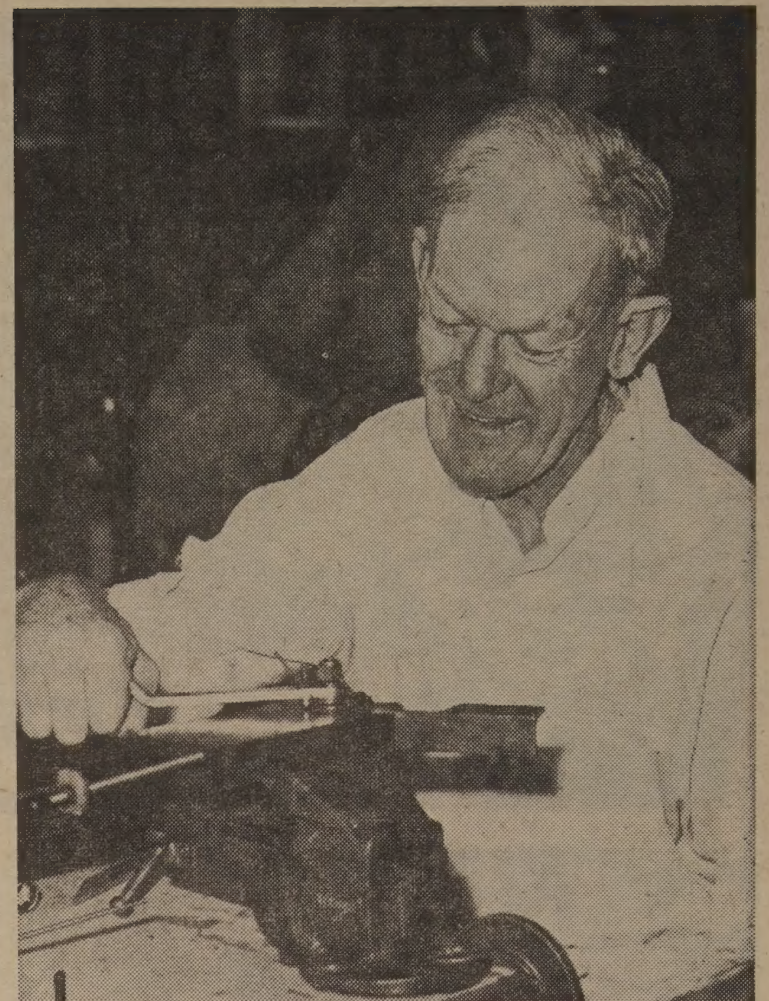
Range of work

As well as the thingamajigs—which the firm produces far more cheaply than they could be made elsewhere—the disabled employees carry out work ranging from assembling and testing battery chargers to making milk bottle tops and bath plugs.

The pictures of the spastics working on the thingamajigs are by courtesy of the South Western Electricity Board.



Miss Elizabeth King deftly works the components which make up the thingamajigs.



Obviously happy in his work making the useful gadget for electricity linesmen is Mr. Mark Russell.



Mr. Andrew Jackson comes from Taunton. He is shortly to be married to a fellow spastic.

New shop opened

A Spastics Shop is opened at Fordingbridge, Hampshire, by Mrs. Madge Grayston, a keen local supporter of the spastics' cause.

The shop is a joint enterprise of The Spastics Society and Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society. It has been set up to help raise money for a new adult residential hostel for spastics now being built in Poole.

Looking on as Mrs. Grayston opens the door are Manageress Mrs. Jean Ryland (centre) and Mrs. Sylvia Chant, her assistant (centre, right).

Picture by courtesy of Western Gazette.



He will lend you "Chitty"

"CHITTY Chitty, Bang Bang" that marvellous motor car which had the starring role in one of most delightful films for the young in heart in recent years, is an attraction wherever she goes. The public is more than willing to pay to see this most unusual and charming of cars, and if you are organising an event for spastics you have the opportunity of using her to raise funds.

Chitty's owner, Pierre Picton—the famous Pierre the Clown, and a devoted member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics—tells Spastics News that he is willing to lend her for a fund-raising event, but naturally, organisations will have to pay the costs of transportation and a driver.

If you are interested, please write to Mr. Picton, care of Spastics News, 12, Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ.

Society launches dramatic "new deal" plan for handicapped

JANUARY 1973 not only saw The Spastics Society's 21st Anniversary, but the launching of a daring and dynamic new deal for the handicapped in the next decade.

Top priority in the Society's future programme will be given to achieving maximum integration of the handicapped within the community.

This will be helped by:

- The building of small, ADULT HOUSE UNITS near shops, cinemas and pubs, to house no more than 25 residents, most of whom will be severely handicapped. Rooms will be single, and non-resident staff will be recruited locally.

- The development of small HOSTELS, usually converted from houses in ordinary residential areas to accommodate no more than 15 residents, who will come and go in the community as much as they please, or as their handicaps permit. Staffing will be small, and residents will have facilities to cook for themselves if they wish.

Such accommodation may well be offered to people suffering from differing handicaps. The Society believes that very often spastics may well have no more in common with each other than their handicap, and would prefer to live in a more mixed community.

- Maximum aids and services to allow more spastics to live at home. The Society believes that this offers the chance of a more normal life and is

also less expensive than institutional care—an important point for local authorities to bear in mind when asked to co-operate on housing schemes adaptations and home services.

- The provision of more homes for single handicapped people, married couples and families within able-bodied housing developments. The Society's Housing Association, set up three years ago, has nearly completed the first of its projects at Harin-guey, London. More developments are planned in other parts of the country. The proportion of handicapped people on these estates would never be envisaged as more than 10 per cent of the total number of residents to ensure that true integration takes place. The architectural design is such that the whole of the estate is accessible to handicapped people and would enable a choice of house to be possible.

Real need

The housing the Society can itself provide for the handicapped within the community is, of necessity, limited and cannot go anywhere near filling the real need. The Society believes that there should be far more official provision for the handicapped in housing developments throughout Britain and that accommodation should be subsidised—a far cheaper solution than keeping a handicapped person in an institution at a cost to the State of upwards of £1,100 a year.

To achieve genuine community integration, the Society believes that a radical change in public attitudes to the subject of sex and marriage in relation to the handicapped is essential. At present, it believes that many able-bodied people harbour unrealistic and hurtful attitudes to the subject—fear, disgust, a wish to ignore the facts.

The Society intends to continue to air the whole matter publicly and to make it clear that spastic adults—indeed, all handicapped people—have the same urges and sexual desires as anyone else. It believes that they should have the right to make their own decisions on this and any other subject.

Critical

In planning its leap into the future, The Spastics Society has taken a critical look at its past. The aim will be AWAY from the institutional concept. It plans more privacy for residents in its existing centres, with more decision making by the handicapped themselves which will result in giving them what they want rather than what it is thought they need.

Suitable interesting work for the intellectually gifted, but heavily handicapped spastic, has always proved an almost insoluble problem.

Against almost impossible odds, spastics get to Universities, and win degrees—in law, mathematics, history, economics, politics, etc.

Afterwards, however, their handicaps preclude them from jobs which can utilise these qualifications. Their future becomes a blank once more.

The Spastics Society is planning an Intellectual Commune to be set up in London during the 'seventies to devise ways and means of providing meaningful work for heavily handicapped spastics who have

proved their intellectual ability. It is hoped that this commune will also be open to handicaps other than spasticity.

It will employ executive staff to liaise with employers and professional organisations so that job possibilities can be expanded to provide a variety of work.

Such activities as the preparation of law briefs, proof reading, reading for publishers, monitoring and computer programming are envisaged.

Ten years on, The Spastics Society hopes to report that "Operation Community Integration" for the handicapped will have been successfully completed.

Said Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society: "21 is still very young and we don't intend to sink in a sea of complacency. Although we have, with our local groups, opened 160 schools and centres, created a large social work service, and initiated vital research programmes, we need to at least double the scope of work and induce the government to provide for what remains.

"When the Society was formed, charity still suffered from a public image of soup and sympathy dispensed by well-meaning people with time on their hands. We made a dramatic impact on the voluntary scene and finally demolished the idea that charity was a relaxed and amiable pastime for the leisured classes. Our organisation was formed by desperate parents fighting for a future for their spastic children—not by do-gooders.

"However, there must still be great changes in public attitudes if handicapped people are to take their rightful place in the community. During the next decade we plan to change those attitudes and add a new dimension to society: the integration within it of its handicapped members."



Mr. Robert Catow, the Mayor of Watford, visited the party, and is pictured chatting with Robert Cullen of the London Club, and Marilyn Phillips of New Barnet.

Making new friends

THE '62 Clubs—The Spastics Society-sponsored network of Clubs which are run by, and for, the physically handicapped, play an important part in widening the horizons of spastics who because of their disabilities may be limited in their opportunities for social and leisure activities. One of the most important of the Clubs' functions is to stimulate friendships between members all over the country, and the pictures show a typical '62 Club "happening." On this occasion, the Watford '62 Club held a party at the Watford Spastics Centre, and invited members from London and other Clubs in the area.

What goes on at a '62 Club? The article below about the London Club will answer your questions.



You can't hold a party without a fund-raising raffle, and pictured above surrounded by tickets and prizes are Gwendoline and Alan Storow of the Watford Club.



Mr. Bill Hargreaves, President of the Association of '62 Clubs, makes an emphatic point to Eileen Spink, the secretary of the Watford Club, and Bob Harrow from the Slough Club.



Above: The happy group includes Claudette Goldsmith, Josephine Kitchen, Dennis King, Owen Parry, the Chairman of the Watford Club, and Teresa Oxford and Mark Sennett, who are both from the Society's Sherrards Training Centre for Spastics.

How to join an exclusive West End Club

"Meet me at my West End Club next Saturday evening."

Does this invitation conjure in your imagination a scene of portly middle-aged gentlemen meeting in plush surroundings for dinner and highly intellectual conversation? If so, allow me to erase such a picture from your mind by replacing it with a description of the London '62 Club which exists to meet the social needs of any spastic or physically handicapped person from 18 upwards in and around the London area.

Our Club premises are not, however, devoid of such elegance as depicted above. On approaching stately Park Crescent and ringing the doorbell of No. 12, you would most likely find yourself being regally swept in by our official "doorman," Roy.

A different scene would greet you inside—in fact, this changes from meeting to meeting. One constant feature is the "coffee bar" run from 7.00 to 8.00 p.m., which gives members an opportunity to make or meet old friends and catch up on the latest news over light refreshments.

Then begins the main programme for the evening, which could be anything from a lively disco (not conducive to

polite conversation and ear-plugs highly recommended for those uninitiated in this field), to talks on a variety of subjects. Tramp suppers, actually encouraging scruffy appearances for once, and spot competitions, bringing many a hidden talent to the surface, take their turn of events in our programme.

We occasionally go out and about on the town, and many a theatre or concert visit has been arranged with great success. During the summer months emphasis is placed on outdoor activities; a pleasurable river trip; basking on the beach (weather permitting); or being guided around some stately home. "Nothing attempted, nothing gained, could well be our motto."

Future plans

You may like to know some of the events that are in the pipe-line for 1973. In February we have a Cheese and Wine Party with a Valentine's flavour; in March an evening spent with "Mr. Pickwick," of the Dickens Fellowship who will bring to life a miscellany of Dickensian characters.

During the summer a sponsored walk is being planned with fund-raising in mind, plus a coach outing and a barbeque. At the end of September we join the delegates at the Biennial Conference at Reading

University, sponsored by the Association of '62 Clubs — a stimulating experience not to be missed. Our country members are not forgotten, and a week-end in London in November is envisaged for them. The programme will reach its climax with a Christmas Bazaar and a Carol Concert.

The success of the programme will depend very much on the participation of those for whom it is planned. The '62 Clubs are very much "Do-it-yourself" enterprises and members could be asked to perform a variety of tasks from making and serving the coffee (we are experts in mopping up operations), to acting as "courier" on an outing. Although according to '62 Club principles the Clubs are run entirely by the handicapped, friends of members are welcome at any meeting and are allowed to join as associate members.

If any reader would like to know more about the London '62 Club, which meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, I should be very happy to meet you and discuss it more fully. Please write to: Merle Davies, The London '62 Club, 16 Fitzroy Square, W1P 5HQ, or telephone me between 10.30 and 5.15 p.m. at 01-387 9571.

Remember, there are many more Clubs throughout the country ready to welcome handicapped new members.



Among the guests at the party were members from the PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) Club at Abbots Langley. In the group above are: Brian Murray, Pat Brothers, Steve Butcher, Celia Butcher, Susan Campbell, Janet Bayly, and Sarah Mitchell. Refreshments at the party were provided by Mrs. Hodges, and other members of the Watford Spastics Group.



Ian Botterill of Sherrards Training Centre, and Diane Garner, of Mitcham '62 Club, with Mrs. Jean Catow, the Mayoress of Watford.

M.P. OPENS NEW HOME

MR. ALFRED MORRIS, M.P., who introduced the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act, 1970, has opened the London Borough of Barking's new £83,000 home for younger physically handicapped people.

The home, Sweetland Court, is in Lodge Avenue, Dagenham, and there are very few homes in the country comparable with it. It will accommodate not only single handicapped people but also married handicapped couples.

It is provided under the Council's 10-year development plan for welfare services and will allow those requiring accommodation to remain in an area they know well and where their friends are.

The overall aim at the Home is to improve the quality of life for its residents and, apart from performing a caring role for most categories of handicap, it also provides facilities for recreation. All the residents are encouraged to develop individual leisure-time pursuits as well as joining in group activities.

Spastic swimmers at London gala

OVER 120 handicapped swimmers from all parts of Great Britain were at the great Crystal Palace Pool, London, on Saturday to compete in the National Spastics Swimming Gala, organised by The Spastics Society.

Competitors included boys and girls from special schools, and adults from centres and clubs for the handicapped.

Some of them were so severely handicapped that they are confined to wheelchairs and have to be lifted into the water. Yet all showed what tremendous courage and determination they have put into learning to swim and the great benefits they derive from relaxing their limbs in the water.

Events included breast stroke, back stroke and swimming with aids.

As the Gala took place as Spastics News went to press, a full picture report will appear in our next issue.

Spastics Week: Call for big national effort

A SPECIAL appeal has gone out to local groups of volunteers all over the country to organise Door Knock campaigns for Spastics Week '73, "with a record number of collectors out among the generous British public who care about the welfare of spastics and will help if they are asked."



Manageress of the Spastics Shop in Watford, Hertfordshire, is 19-year-old Sue Sears. She said: "I applied for the job because I was fed up with working aimlessly in factories, and I wanted to do something which was useful and would help other people."

Sue also has an evening job, helping out at an Adult Rehabilitation Centre in Hemel Hempstead.

Picture by courtesy of West Herts and Watford Observer

The appeal comes from Mr. James Loring, the Director of The Spastics Society, who reminds local groups that as Spastics Week is to be held from April 29th to May 5th, there is "only just enough time to get your group into action with exciting, energetic plans to make 1973 a vintage year for fund raising in your area."

He writes:

"If your group didn't hold a Door Knock last year, look what you've been missing. In 1972, for example, the Croydon Group raised a record £4,500 from their campaign, and even a much smaller area, Coalville, achieved £700. There is no reason why your group shouldn't top these figures during Spastics Week 1973, because a Door Knock is a proven money spinner. No special mystique ensures success — just a standard recipe of enthusiasm, drive and good leadership, seasoned with sound forward planning and the full use of outside organisations to provide helpers."

The Society hopes that if all groups plan a Door Knock, all of England and Wales could be covered in a national campaign for badly needed funds to help spastics. It has done its part by designing a special new collecting envelope which is printed with information about the needs of spastics as well as a straight appeal for cash, and samples of this will be sent to groups this month.

Among the national events already organised for Spastics Week is a service of dedication at St. Martin in the Fields on Sunday, April 29th, and a reception at Grocers' Hall in the City of London on Friday, May 4th. The famous livery hall has been kindly offered to the Society for the occasion by the Worshipful Company of Grocers.



Lord Snowdon was "very delighted"

SO pleased was 16-year-old Sylvia Grant with the Chairmobile which she uses at the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics Westerlea School, Edinburgh, that she sent a letter with a photograph of herself sitting in it to the chair's designer, Lord Snowdon.

She has just received a reply from Lord Snowdon in which he writes: "How very kind of you to send me a photograph of yourself in a Chairmobile. I am very delighted to hear that you are finding it such a help and pleasure to use. May I wish all at Westerlea School including yourself a very happy New Year. Thank you for your beautifully-typed letter which I was so pleased to receive."

A 25-HOUR marathon basketball game played by RAF apprentices at Locking Camp near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, has raised £80 for local handicapped people.

The money will help to pay for a new £20,000 swimming pool to be built by the Weston District Society for the Spastics and Mentally Handicapped.

KATHRYN BOND, 13, of Carterton, Oxfordshire compiled a scrapbook about riding which won the Bob Stanley Memorial Competition for disabled horse riders. She is seen receiving her prize from Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association.

Kathryn, a pupil at Ormerod School, Headington, has riding lessons every week in the summer. This was her second meeting with Royalty, as nine years ago she presented a bouquet to the late Princess Marina, who visited Oxford to open a new centre for spastics.

Picture by courtesy of Heart of England Newspapers Ltd.

Buying comfort for Kevin

A RAFFLE organised by Pontypridd Round Table in Wales has raised £460 towards a special bed for a severely-handicapped local spastic boy.

The spastic, 15-year-old Kevin Brewer, has to be turned over in bed about seven times a night. Up to now this has been done manually, but the £700 new bed will enable Kevin to change position himself by blowing down a tube or by push-button control.

The Raffle proceeds brings the Round Table's Bed Fund total to about £800, so the bed can be delivered to Kevin immediately, together with some useful accessories.

Lost — and found — through kindness

MRS. Jean Smith of Birmingham thought she had found the ideal hiding place for the watches with which she meant to surprise her two sons on Christmas morning. She tucked them into the pocket of an old coat.

Unfortunately, the garment was put out with a parcel of old clothes to be collected in aid of spastics.

As soon as the mistake was discovered, Mrs. Smith dashed round to the Society's Regional Office in Birmingham, but it had closed for the Christmas holiday.

Received with what she describes as "old world courtesy" by the caretaker, she was given the telephone number of Mrs. Bingham, secretary to Mike Venables, Senior Regional Officer, Midlands. Mrs. Bingham was able to supply the address of Mr. O'Neill, the dealer to whom the clothes had been sent under the Society's unwanted household items scheme, but he, too, had closed for the holiday and his home address could not be traced.

Immediately after the holiday, Mr. Smith called on Mr. O'Neill, and after a search the watches were found intact in the coat pocket.

Mrs. Smith was greatly impressed by the kindness and courtesy of everybody who helped to retrieve the presents, and has written to the Society with her thanks.

BOYS and girls from the East Finchley Methodist Church raised £91 for the North London Spastics Association by holding a sponsored Bible Reading. The youngsters read continuously for 48 hours.

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YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR LITERARY CONTEST

MRS. Harold Wilson, wife of the Leader of the Opposition, will once again judge the poetry section of the special Literary Contest organised by The Spastics Society.

Well-known names in the newspaper world have also rallied round to help with the rest of the judging, including

Anne Edwards, of the Sunday Express, Angela Ince, feature writer of the Evening News, and Colin Reid of the Daily Mail.

Just to remind you, this is a special contest for spastics of all ages from all over Great Britain, and you can write about any subject or topic you like — articles, stories, poetry

—all are welcome. The contest is in three sections, for school children up to 16, young adults 17 to 25, and the over 25's, with a separate section for poetry. You can send in as many entries as you like, and cash prizes will be given in each section for the best entry from a male and female contestant.

If you have not al-

ready got your entry form, you can get this direct from Spastics News or from Mrs. Nina Heycock, 6th Floor, Roxburgh House, 273/287, Regent Street, London, W1R 8AD. Please do this right away as the closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 28th, and we should hate you to miss your chance.